

ELLIS:LAWHORNE

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July 7, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL SERVICE

The Honorable Bruce Duke
Executive Director
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Petition of Verizon South, Inc. For an Arbitration of an Amendment to Interconnection Agreements with Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers in South Carolina Pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended, and the *Triennial Review Order*, **Docket No. 2004-0049-C, Our File No. 611-10116**

Dear Mr. Duke:

AT&T Communications of the Southern States, LLC, ("AT&T") provides the following response to Verizon South Inc.'s ("Verizon's") "Motion for Extension of Time" filed with the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") on July 6, 2004 in the above-captioned proceeding.

Verizon's request is clearly seeking the ability to file a new Petition for Arbitration. As such, should the Commission grant Verizon leave to do so, the Commission must also deem the date Verizon files any such Petition as the date from which the statutory deadline set out in S.C. Code § 58-9-280(d) is determined.

Accordingly, the Commission must provide all responding parties with at least twenty-five (25) days to provide appropriate responses to any such Petition, as the Commission ordered in this Docket earlier this year. In addition, the Commission must ensure that the responding parties have adequate timeframes to respond to testimony filed by Verizon.

Further, AT&T again urges the Commission to consider and rule upon the various Motions outstanding in the Docket, including AT&T's Motion to Strike. AT&T's motion, as well as those of other parties, raise issues as fundamental as whether Verizon has properly sought arbitration before the Commission with respect to certain issues. These motions may be dispositive of the entire Docket, and thus must be considered prior to any hearing in this matter.

Finally, the Commission must confirm its previous ruling in this Docket that the prices contained in the parties' current interconnection agreements with Verizon are part of a valid,

(Continued . . .)

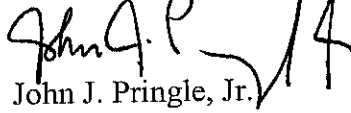
The Honorable Bruce Duke
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binding contract and must remain in effect until the parties agree to a change or the Commission, after a hearing, rules otherwise.

I ask that you please stamp as filed the enclosed copy of this letter and return it to me via the enclosed envelope. Should you have any questions, please contact me.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,


John J. Pringle, Jr.

JJP/cr

cc: All "parties of record"

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